

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 03685 122156Z

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9166

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 3685

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, ECOSOC, ENV, BR

SUBJECT: DIRECTOR FOR UN CENTER FOR TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

REFS: (A) STATE 102029 (B) USUN 1468

1. EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION ABOUT ATTITUDES OF SETTE CAMARA TOWARD INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES OR MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS. HE HAS NOT SERVED IN BRAZIL FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. ONE EMBASSY OFFICER REMEMBERS HIM AS A MILD, REASONABLE AND PLEASANT MAN. ACCORDING TO ANOTHER OFFICER, SETTE CAMARA WAS VERY ANTI-COMMUNIST PRIOR TO THE 1964 REVOLUTION; SINCE THEN HE HAS BEEN VEY PRO-REVOLUTION. HE IS CURRENTLY VERY FRIENDLY WITH SEVERAL PROMINENT OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SNI), WHICH MEANS THAT THEY HAVE NO QUESTION ABOUT HIS RELIABILITY. IN GENERAL, HE IS WELL THOUGHT OF IN BRZILIAN CIRCLES.

2. THE EMBASSY HAS SOME INFORMATION ON SETTE CAMARA'S CAREER BACKGROUND, WHICH INCLUDES IMPORTANT DIPLOMATIC AND NON-DIPLOMATIC POSITIONS. IN THE EARLY SIXTIES HE WAS CONSIDERED A COMER IN BRAZILIAN POLITICS, WITH TALK OF HIS REACHING FOREIGN MINISTER SOMEDAY. IN
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PAGE 02 BRASIL 03685 122156Z

RECENT YEARS, BEFORE SERVING ON THE INTERNATIONAL LAW

COMMISSION, HE HAS BEEN AMBASSADOR TO PRAGUE AND CHIEF UN DELEGATE, TO SEVERAL GENERAL ASSEMBLIES. HIS MOST IMPORTANT DOMESTIC POST WAS PRESIDENT KUBITSCHEK'S CHIEF OF THE CIVIL HOUSEHOLD IN 1959 - 60, A VERY IMPORTANT POST IN BRAZIL. AFTER THAT HE SERVED AS PROVISIONAL GOVERNOR OF GUANABARA STATE (RIO DE JANEIRO) AND MAJOR OF BRASILIA. ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE HE HAS HELD SEVERAL JOBS, INCLUDING CHIEF DELEGATE TO THE PARIS DEBT RESCHEDULING TALKS IN 1964, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE BRAZILIAN (FOOD) SUPPLY COORDINATING COUNCIL IN 1959, AND MEMBER OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (BNDE) IN 1956.

3. A MIDDLE-LEVEL BRAZILIAN FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER WHO KNOWS SETTE CAMARA PERSONALLY, AND WHOSE PAST REPORTING AND COMMENTS HAVE USUALLY BEEN RELIABLE, OFFERED THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATION: "JOSE SETTE CAMARA IS ONE OF THE MOST COMPETENT AND ABLE BRAZILIAN DIPLOMATS -- ONE OF THE FIVE BEST AMBASSADORS BRAZIL HAS. HE WAS CLOSE TO BOTH GETULIO VARGAS AND JUSCELINO KUBITSCHEK. HE IS HARD WORKING, HONEST, INTELLIGENT, A DEVOUT CATHOLIC, EXTREMELY ANTI-COMMUNIST, AND A GOOD FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES. SETTE CAMARA IS A POOR MAN WHO HAS NEVER ENRICHED HIMSELF DESPITE NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES TO DO SO WHILE IN PUBLIC POSITION."

4. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING KEPT INFORMED OF THE SELECTION PROCESS AND SETTE CAMARA'S CHANCES FOR THE DIRECTORSHIP.
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